

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 8, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 7, 9-11, and 13-20 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 7, 11, and 14 are independent claims. Claims 8 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7, 11, and 14 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 7, 9-11, and 13-20 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 7-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 5,809,129 of Andersson et al. ("Andersson"). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7, 9-11, and 13-20 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference, and that the rejections of claims 8 and 12 are moot, because those claims have been cancelled.

Claim 7, upon which claims 9-10 depend, is directed to a planning arrangement for forming a communications network. The communications network includes a plurality of layers. The arrangement includes a set of at least two modules. Each module of the set represents a technical solution usable in a layer of the communications network. The arrangement is configured to allow selection of at least two modules of the set based on desired technical solutions of the communications network to be formed. The arrangement is also configured to arrange said at least two modules of the set on top of

each other as a layered structure for modeling the communications network to be formed. A given module of the layered structure is configured to offer resources to an adjacent module above the given module and/or to use resources of an adjacent module below the given module. The arrangement is further configured to select alternative modules representing different technical solutions; model the communications network based on the alternative modules; and compare the different technical solutions for forming the communications network based on the modeling.

Claim 11, upon which claim 13 depends, is directed to a planning method for forming a communications network. The method includes forming a set of at least two modules, each module of the set representing a technical solution usable in a layer of the communications network. The method also includes selecting at least two modules of the set based on desired technical solutions of the communications network to be formed. The method further includes arranging said at least two modules of the set on top of each other as a layered structure for modeling the communications network to be formed. A given module of the layered structure is configured to offer resources to an adjacent module above the given module and/or to use resources of an adjacent module below the given module. The method further includes selecting alternative modules representing different technical solutions, modeling the communications network based on the alternative modules, and comparing the different technical solutions for forming the communications network based on the modeling.

Claim 14, upon which claims 15-20 depend, is directed to a planning module for forming a communications network. The module is a part of a set of at least two modules. The module represents a particular technical solution usable in the communications network. The set includes a plurality of alternative modules representing different technical solutions for modeling the communications network and comparing the different technical solutions for forming the communications network. The module is arranged on top of and/or below another module to form a layered structure for modeling the communications network to be formed. The module is configured to offer resources to an adjacent module above the given module and/or to use resources of an adjacent module below the given module.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference, Andersson, does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of the presently pending claims.

Andersson generally relates to resource separation in a call and connection separated network. As explained at column 5, line 61 to column 6, line 8, Andersson aims to use a flat structure to facilitate maintenance and administration of the physical network. Specifically, Andersson describes mapping all physical resources of a telecommunications network on a single network description. Based on the single network description, one or more logical networks can be defined.

Andersson thus relates to a method for distributing a resource of a physical network among different logical networks which are using the physical network for establishing connections. As shown in figure 2 of Andersson, the communication

network may be represented by a plurality of layers, such as a physical layer, a connection layer and a call layer. The physical network layer represents the switches, links, transmission resources and other physical apparatus involved in providing telecommunication services. In the connection layer, various logical networks are represented, which share the resources in the physical layer. The point of the method of Andersson is that all the physical resources in the physical layer are mapped onto a single network description in the connection layer, as can be seen at column 5, lines 61 to 65 of Andersson.

Thus, if the physical network changes, for example by the addition of new exchanges, corresponding amendments in the connection layer need to be performed only once (because each physical resource is shown only once in the connection layer) in Andersson. Thus, Andersson concentrates on how to provide and share particular resources between logical networks in the connection layer.

Claim 7 recites “wherein the arrangement is further configured to select alternative modules representing different technical solutions; model the communications network based on the alternative modules; and compare the different technical solutions for forming the communications network based on the modeling,” claim 11 recites “wherein the method further comprises selecting alternative modules representing different technical solutions; modeling the communications network based on the alternative modules; and comparing the different technical solutions for forming the communications network based on the modeling,” and claim 14 recites, “the set comprising a plurality of

alternative modules representing different technical solutions for modeling the communications network and comparing the different technical solutions for forming the communications network.” Applicants respectfully submit that Andersson does not disclose or suggest at least these features of the invention.

The above-identified recitations can permit modeling of a communications network in order to select the most appropriate arrangement, by permitting comparison of how alternative technologies would perform if arranged in a particular way.

In contrast, it is evident that Andersson merely discloses a device for representing the allocation of resources in a communications network, which can be divided into logical networks, and which simply needs to be updated whenever new resources are added to the physical network, as explained at column 5, line 66, to column 6, line 6, and column 7, lines 44 to 50 of Andersson.

The representations used by Andersson are therefore designed merely to facilitate resource division between particular networks, to facilitate the maintenance and administration of the physical network as explained at column 6, lines 7-8, and to allow changes to the logical network, such as the addition of new logical networks as explained at column 10, lines 56 to 60, to be efficiently represented and handled.

There is no suggestion whatsoever in Andersson that its method can be used as a planning tool in order to represent possible technical solutions and to compare them at the planning stage, in order to select the most appropriate arrangement for implementation.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Andersson does not and cannot disclose or suggest “wherein the arrangement is further configured to select alternative modules representing different technical solutions; model the communications network based on the alternative modules; and compare the different technical solutions for forming the communications network based on the modeling” as claim 7 recites, “wherein the method further comprises selecting alternative modules representing different technical solutions; modeling the communications network based on the alternative modules; and comparing the different technical solutions for forming the communications network based on the modeling” as claim 11 recites, or “the set comprising a plurality of alternative modules representing different technical solutions for modeling the communications network and comparing the different technical solutions for forming the communications network” as claim 14 recites. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 7, 11, and 14 be withdrawn.

Claims 9-10, 13, and 15-20 depend from claims 7, 11, and 14 respectively, and recite additional limitations. It is therefore respectfully submitted that each of claims 9-10, 13, and 15-20 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in Andersson. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 9-10, 13, and 15-20 be withdrawn.


For the reasons explained above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 7, 9-11, and 13-20 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited

art. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that all of claims 7, 9-11, and 13-20 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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